

Listing of Claims

1-17 (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A medicament containing a carrier-drug conjugate and, optionally, a pharmaceutically compatible excipient, the carrier-drug conjugate comprising:

a carrier which comprises a polypeptide sequence having at least one reducible cystein group;

a drug moiety ~~consisting essentially of~~ comprising a compound selected from the group consisting of pharmaceuticals and diagnostic compounds;

a spacer molecule; and

a thiol binding group;

wherein at least one of the spacer molecule(s), ~~the~~ a linkage between spacer molecule and drug moiety and ~~the~~ a linkage between spacer molecule and thiol binding group is cleavable hydrolytically or enzymatically, and wherein at least 0.7 mol of drug is bound per mole of reducible cystein group through said thiol binding group, and wherein the carrier is albumin.

19. Cancelled

20. (Currently Amended) ~~A carrier-drug conjugate~~ medicament according to claim 18 wherein at least one of said spacer molecule(s) and said linkage contains a peptide bond.

21. (Withdrawn) A ~~carrier-drug-conjugate~~ medicament according to claim 20 which is cleavable by a protease.
22. (Currently Amended) A ~~carrier-drug-conjugate~~ medicament according to claim 18 wherein at least one of said spacer molecule(s) and said linkage is hydrolysable in an acidic medium.
23. (Currently Amended) A ~~carrier-drug-conjugate~~ medicament according to claim 18 wherein said pharmaceutical is selected from the group consisting of cytostatics, cytokines, immunosuppressants, antirheumatics, antipyretics, antiinflammatories, antibiotics, analgesics, virostatics and anti-fungals.
24. (Currently Amended) A ~~carrier-drug-conjugate~~ medicament according to Claim 23, wherein the cytostatic pharmaceutical is selected from the group consisting of the anthracyclines, the N-nitrosoureas, alkylating agents, purine or pyrimidine antagonists, folic acid antagonists, taxanes, camptothecins, podophyllotoxin derivatives, *Vinca* alkaloids, calicheamicins, maytansinoids or and *cis*-configured platinum(II) complexes.
25. (Currently Amended) A ~~carrier-drug-conjugate~~ medicament according to Claim 18 wherein the diagnostically active substance contains at least one substance selected from the group consisting of radionuclides, one or a plurality of ligands containing radionuclides, positron emitters, NMR contrast media, and fluorescing compound(s) and contrast media functional in the near IR region.

26. (Currently Amended) A ~~carrier-drug-conjugate~~ medicament according to ~~one of~~ Claim 18, in which the thiol-binding group contains a maleinimide group, a haloacetamide group, a haloacetate group, a pyridyldithio group, a vinylcarbonyl group, an aziridine group, a disulfide group or an acetylene group, which groups may be substituted or unsubstituted.

27. (Currently Amended) A ~~carrier-drug-conjugate~~ medicament according to Claim 18 wherein said spacer molecule is selected from the group consisting of substituted or unsubstituted, branched-chain or straight-chain aliphatic alkyl groups having 1 to 12 carbon atoms, substituted or unsubstituted aryl groups and aliphatic carbon rings having 3 to 12 carbon atoms.

28. (Currently Amended) A method for the preparation of a ~~carrier-drug conjugate~~ the carrier-drug conjugate contained in the medicament according to claim 18, comprising

- (i) treating a carrier with a reducing agent so that at least 0.7 mol of cysteine SH groups is are present in the carrier per mol of reducible cysteine group; and
- (ii) coupling a drug to said cysteine SH groups in said carrier via the thiol-binding group.

29. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 28, wherein said reducing agent is selected from a group consisting of dithiothreitol, dithioerythritol or mercaptoethanol.

30. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 28 wherein said conjugate prepared exhibits a purity higher than 95%.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) A medicament according to Claim ~~34~~ 18 for the treatment of cancer, autoimmune disorders, acute or chronically inflammatory diseases and diseases that are caused by infectious agents selected from the group consisting of viruses and microorganisms in mammals in need thereof.

33. (Currently Amended) A diagnostic kit comprising a ~~carrier-drug-conjugate~~ medicament according to Claim 18.

34. (Currently Amended) A diagnostic kit according to Claim 33 for the detection of diseases selected from a the group consisting of cancer, autoimmune disorders, acute or chronically inflammatory diseases, and diseases that are caused by infectious agents selected from the group consisting of viruses and microorganisms.